



Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report For Petersham Center School

What is SWAP?

The Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP), established under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, requires every state to:

- ? Inventory land uses within the recharge areas of all public water supply sources;
- ? Assess the susceptibility of drinking water sources to contamination from these land uses; and
- ? Publicize the results to provide support for improved protection.

SWAP and Water Quality

Susceptibility of a drinking water source does *not* imply poor water quality. Actual water quality is best reflected by the results of regular water tests.

Water suppliers protect drinking water by monitoring for more than 100 chemicals, treating water supplies, and using source protection measures to ensure that safe water is delivered to the tap.

Prepared by the
Massachusetts Department of
Environmental Protection,
Bureau of Resource Protection,
Drinking Water Program

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Table 1: Public Water System (PWS) Information

PWS NAME	PETERSHAM CENTER SCHOOL
PWS Address	P.O. BOX 148
City/Town	PETERSHAM, MASSACHUSETTS
PWS ID Number	2234006
Local Contact	ANN DEGNAN
Phone Number	(978) 724-3363

Well Name	Source ID#	Zone I (in feet)	IWPA (in feet)	Source Susceptibility
Well #1	2234006-01G	100	409	Moderate

Introduction

We are all concerned about the quality of the water we drink. Drinking water wells may be threatened by many potential sources of contamination, including septic systems, road salting, and improper disposal of hazardous materials. Citizens and local officials can work together to better protect these drinking water sources.

Purpose of this report:

This report is a planning tool to support local and state efforts to improve water supply protection. By identifying land uses within water supply protection areas that may be potential sources of contamination the assessment helps focus protection efforts on appropriate best management practices (BMPs) and drinking water source protection measures. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff are available to provide information about funding and other resources that may be available to your community.

This report includes:

1. Description of the Water System
2. Discussion of Land Uses within Protection Areas
3. Recommendations for Protection
4. Attachments, including a Map of the Protection Areas

1. Description of the Water System

The well for the facility is located in a covered pit behind the school building. The well has a Zone I of 100 feet and an Interim Wellhead Protection Area (IWPA) of 409 feet. The IWPA provides an interim protection area for a water supply well when the actual recharge area has not been delineated. The actual recharge area to the well may be significantly larger or smaller than the IWPA. The well is located in an aquifer with a high vulnerability to contamination due to the absence of hydrogeologic barriers that can prevent contaminant migration. Please refer to the attached map of the Zone I and IWPA. The well serving the facility has no treatment at this time.

What is a Protection Area?

A well's water supply protection area is the land around the well where protection activities should be focused. Each well has a Zone I protective radius and an Interim Wellhead Protection Area (IWPA).

- **The Zone I** is the area that should be owned or controlled by the water supplier and limited to water supply activities.
- **The IWPA** is the larger area that is likely to contribute water to the well.

In many instances the IWPA does not include the entire land area that could contribute water to the well. Therefore, the well may be susceptible to contamination from activities outside of the IWPA that are not identified in this report.

What is Susceptibility?

Susceptibility is a measure of a well's potential to become contaminated due to land uses and activities within the Zone I and Interim Wellhead Protection Area (IWPA).

For current information on monitoring results and treatment, please contact the Public Water System contact person listed above in Table 1. Drinking water monitoring reporting data is also available on the web via EPA's Envirofacts website at http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/sdwis/sdwis_query.html.

2. Discussion of Land Uses in the Protection Areas

There are a number of land uses and activities within the drinking water supply protection areas that are potential sources of contamination.

Key issues include:

1. **Inappropriate Activities in Zone I; and**
2. **An Aboveground Storage Tanks (AST) with Heating Oil; and**
3. **Septic system**

The overall ranking of susceptibility to contamination for the well is Moderate, based on the presence of moderate threat land use or activity in the IWPA, as seen in Table 2.

1. **Zone I** – Currently the well does not meet DEP's restrictions, which only allow water supply related activities in Zone Is. The facility's Zone I contains the school building, playing field, access road to the school, and parking areas. The playing field is mowed, no fertilizer application is allowed. The public water supplier does not own and/or control all land encompassed by the Zone I. The Please note that systems not meeting DEP Zone I requirements must get DEP approval and address Zone I issues prior to increasing water use or modifying systems.

Recommendations:

- V Remove all non-water supply activities from the Zone I to comply with DEP's Zone I requirements.
 - V Do not use road salt within the Zone I.
2. **Aboveground Storage Tank (AST)** – Four 275 gallon AST are located in the basement of the school building. If managed improperly, Aboveground Storage Tanks can be a potential source of contamination due to leaks or spills of the chemicals they store.

Table 2: Table of Activities within the Water Supply Protection Areas

Potential Contaminant Sources	Zone I	IWPA	Threat	Comments
Parking lot and access road	Yes	Yes	Moderate	Limit road salt usage and provide drainage away from wells
Septic System	No	Yes	Moderate	See septic systems brochure in the appendix
Fuel Storage Above Ground	Yes	Yes	Moderate	Should be on an impervious surface
Structures	Yes	Yes	-	Non-water supply structures in Zone I

* -For more information on Contaminants of Concern associated with individual facility types and land uses please see the SWAP Draft Land Use / Associated Contaminants Matrix on DEP's website - www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/.

Glossary

Zone I: The area closest to a well; a 100 to 400 foot radius proportional to the well's pumping rate. To determine your Zone I radius, refer to the attached map.

IWPA: A 400 foot to ½ mile radius around a public water supply well proportional to its pumping rate; the area DEP recommends for protection in the absence of a defined Zone I. To determine IWPA radius, refer to the attached map.

Zone II: The primary recharge area defined by a hydrogeologic study.

Aquifer: An underground water-bearing layer of permeable material that will yield water in a usable quantity to a well.

Hydrogeologic Barrier: An underground layer of impermeable material that resists penetration by water.

Recharge Area: The surface area that contributes water to a well.

Recommendations:

- ✓ Aboveground storage tanks in your Zone I and IWPA should be located on an impermeable surface, and also contained in an area large enough to hold 110% of the complete liquid volume, should a spill occur.
- ✓ Upgrade all oil/hazardous material storage tanks to incorporate proper containment and safety practices. Any modifications to the AST must be accomplished in a manner consistent with Massachusetts's plumbing, building, and fire code requirements. Consult with the local fire department for any additional local code requirements regarding ASTs.

3. **Septic system** - The septic system is located within the IWPA of the well. If a septic system fails or is not properly maintained it could be a potential source of microbial contamination. Improper disposal of household hazardous chemicals to septic systems is a potential source of contamination to the water supply.

Recommendations:

- ✓ Staff should be instructed on the proper disposal of spent chemicals. Include custodial staff, groundskeepers, and certified operator.
- ✓ Septic system components should be located, inspected, and maintained on a regular basis. Refer to the appendices for more information regarding septic systems.

Implementing the following recommendations will reduce the system's susceptibility to contamination.

3. Protection Recommendations

Implementing protection measures and best management practices (BMPs) will reduce the well's susceptibility to contamination. Petersham Center School should review and adopt the key recommendations above and the following:

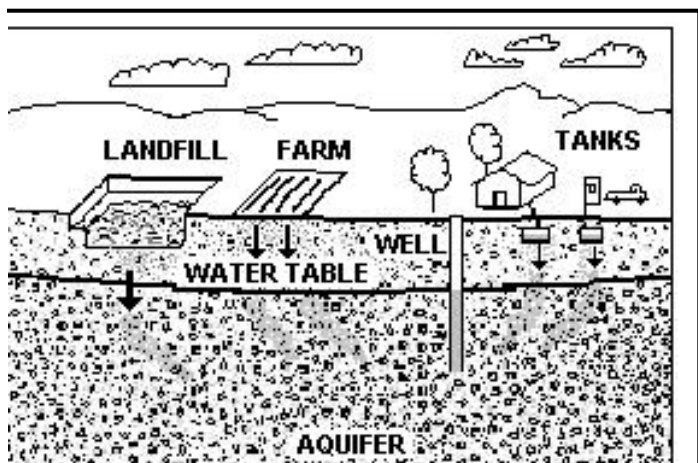


Figure 1: Example of how a well could become contaminated by different land uses and activities.

Zone I:

- ✓ Keep non-water supply activities out of the Zone I.
- ✓ Consider well relocation if Zone I threats cannot be mitigated.
- ✓ If the school intends to continue utilizing the structures, parking areas, and playing field in the Zone I, use BMPs and restrict activities that could pose a threat to the water supply.
- ✓ Do not use road salt within the Zone I.

Training and Education:

- ✓ Train staff on proper hazardous material use, disposal, emergency response, and best management practices; include custodial staff, groundskeepers, certified operator, and food preparation staff. Post labels as appropriate on raw materials and hazardous waste.

For More Information:

Contact **Josephine Yemoh-Ndi** in DEP's **Worcester Office** at (508) 792-7650 x 5030 for more information and for assistance in improving current protection measures.

More information relating to drinking water and source protection is available on the Drinking Water Program web site at:

www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/

Additional Documents:

To help with source protection efforts, more information is available by request or online at www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/, including:

1. Water Supply Protection Guidance Materials such as model regulations, Best Management Practice information, and general water supply protection information.
2. MA DEP SWAP Strategy
3. Land Use Pollution Potential Matrix
4. Draft Land/Associated Contaminants Matrix

Copies of this assessment have been provided to the public water supplier, town boards, and the local media.

- ✓ Post drinking water protection area signs at key visibility locations.
- ✓ Incorporate groundwater education into school curriculum (K-6 and 7-12 curricula available; contact DEP for copies).
- ✓ Work with your community to ensure that stormwater runoff is directed away from the well and is treated according to DEP guidance.

Facilities Management:

- ✓ Implement standard operating procedures regarding proper storage, use and disposal of hazardous materials. To learn more, see the hazardous materials guidance manual at www.state.ma.us/dep/bwp/dhm/dhmpubs.htm.

Planning:

- ✓ Work with local officials in Petersham to include the facility IWPA in Aquifer Protection District Bylaws and to assist you in improving protection.
- ✓ Have a plan to address short-term water shortages and long-term water demands. Keep the phone number of a bottled water company readily available.
- ✓ Supplement the SWAP assessment with additional local information and incorporate it into water supply educational efforts. Use a land use inventory to assist in setting priorities, focusing inspections, and creating educational activities.

These recommendations are only part of your ongoing local drinking water source protection. Citizens and community officials should use this SWAP report to spur discussion of local drinking water protection measures.

4. Attachments

- Map of the Public Water Supply (PWS) Protection Area.
- Recommended Source Protection Measures Factsheet
- Your Septic System Brochure
- Healthy Schools Fact Sheet
- Source Protection Sign Order Form